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Wincanton Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

including the Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the Year Ending 31st December, 1946.

WINCANTON,
SOMERSET,
June, 1947.

TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WINCANTON.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the year 1946.

1.—General Statistics.

Area (in acres)	...	...	64,540
Population (1946)	...	...	16,410
Number of inhabited houses (1931)	...	...	4,361
Number of families or separate occupiers (1931)	...	...	4,385
Rateable Value (31st March, 1945)	....	...	£76,188
Net Product of Penny Rate	...	...	£354 3s. 2d.

2.—Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

BIRTHS.

		Males.	Females.	
Live Births	Total	148	150	Birth Rate 19.1 per 1000
	Legitimate	140	138	
	Illegitimate	8	12	
	Total	6	2	
Stillbirths	Legitimate	5	2	Birth Rate 0.53 per 1000
	Illegitimate	1	—	

DEATHS.

	Total	Males.	Females.	
Death from all causes	210	95	115	Death Rate 11.5 per 1000

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—

(a) from sepsis	...	...	nil.
(b) from other causes	...	...	nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

	Males.	Females.
Total	5	5
Legitimate	4	5
Illegitimate	1	—

Deaths of Infants under one week	...	...	7
„ „ from one to four weeks (inclusive)	...	...	1
„ „ from one to six months	...	...	1
„ „ from six to twelve months	...	...	1
			—
			Total 10
			—

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	nil
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	nil
„ Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	nil

There has not been any excessive mortality during the year.

The total number of Deaths occurring in the District was 210, compared with 227 in 1945.

The chief causes of Death were :—

Old Age 25. Heart and Circulatory Diseases 66. Cancer 29. Cerebral Hæmorrhage 38.

In all “ Causes of Death ”—

Those dying between the ages of 75 and 80 were 36.

„ „ „ „ „ „ 81 „ 85 „ 34.

„ „ „ „ „ „ 86 „ 90 „ 19.

„ „ over the age of 90 were 5.

A total of 94 or 44.76 per cent. of the total Deaths.

3.—Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

DISEASE.				Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	1	nil	nil
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	14	4	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	12	nil	6
Dysentery	...	...	...	nil	1	nil
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	94	1	nil
Acute Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	2	2	nil
Measles	...	...	...	89	nil	nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	3	1	nil
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	1	1	nil
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	21	nil	12
(a) Respiratory	...	...	...	15		11
(b) Non-respiratory	...	...	...	6		1

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No case notified.

The following School was closed for Infectious Disease—

Sparkford for Measles in September and October.

4.—Causes of Sickness.

Measles and Whooping Cough were again somewhat in evidence throughout the District. The type of both diseases was mild, and there were no deaths from either.

The cases of Scarlet Fever were of a mild type but there was one death.

5.—Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospital and other Institutions available in the District.

A.—Professional Nursing in the Home.

- (1) *General*.—There are 9 nurses in the district engaged in general district work who are affiliated to the County Nursing Association, and between them they cover the whole district.
- (2) *For Infectious Diseases*.—Some of the cases of infectious diseases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, the remainder were either nursed by their relatives or by nurses obtained from Nursing Homes or Hospitals outside the district.

B.—Midwives.

There are 9 certified midwives practising in the district.

C.—Clinics and Treatment Centres.

In Wincanton there is one Tuberculosis Dispensary provided and staffed by the County Council.

D.—Hospitals available for the District.

- (1) *Tuberculosis*.—One at Wincanton.

Owing to the difficulty of supplying staff, both Nursing and Domestic, in the Isolation Hospital, it was decided to close this Hospital on October 31st, 1946 ; the buildings to be handed over to the County Council. Arrangements were made to admit any cases of infectious disease occurring in the district, and requiring hospital treatment, to the Shepton Mallet Isolation Hospital.

- (2) *Fever*.—The following cases were admitted to Shepton Mallet Isolation Hospital during the year—

Disease.	Number Admitted.	Number Died.
Scarlet Fever	4	1
Dysentery	1	nil
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	nil
Acute Polio-myelitis	2	nil
For Observation	3	nil
Streptococcal Tonsillitis	1	nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	nil
Whooping Cough	2	nil
	—	—
	15	1
	—	—

(3) *Other.*—There is one Cottage Hospital at Wincanton, known as the “Wincanton and East Somerset Memorial Hospital,” for the treatment of general, medical and surgical cases.

There is one Cottage Hospital at Templecombe, known as the “Merthyr Guest Memorial Hospital,” for the treatment of general, medical and surgical cases; in addition, there are three wards available for Maternity Cases.

There is a Public Assistance Institution at Wincanton for the aged and infirm under the Public Assistance Committee.

E.—Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children.

The only Institutions for any of the above are the Public Assistance Institution and Rodber House, Wincanton (for boys only), which are under the control of the Public Assistance Committee.

F.—Ambulance Facilities.

(1) *For Infectious Cases.*—The Shepton Mallet Isolation Hospital Motor Ambulance is used for the collection and removal of infectious cases.

(2) *For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.*—A motor ambulance, built and equipped by the Wincanton Rural District Council, is kept at Messrs. The Wincanton Transport and Engineering Co., Wincanton, Tel. 2321.

G.—Government Evacuation Scheme. Institutions for Evacuated Children.

The Number of Evacuated Children in the Wincanton Rural District was :—

1. At the commencement of 1946 - unaccompanied 20.
2. At the end of 1946 - unaccompanied 7.

The following property ceased to be used as a hostel or sick bay during the year :—

No. 15, Balsam Park, Wincanton, at the beginning of 1946.

The Nursery School at Yarlinton House was still in use at the end of 1946, accommodating 30 children.

H.—Scabies.

No cases have been brought to my notice.

6.—Laboratory Work.

Examination of bacteriological and pathological specimens are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Taunton, and considerable use of this laboratory has been made during the year.

A supply of diphtheria antitoxin is kept at the Isolation Hospital, Wincanton, and is supplied, gratis, on demand to Practitioners practising in the District.

7.—Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

The Public Health Department consists of The Chief Sanitary Inspector, an additional Sanitary Inspector, two Assistant Sanitary Inspectors, two pupils, all whole-time Officers, a Public Health Inspector, and myself, a part-time Officer.

There are also 2 Health Visitors in the District.

8.—Water Supplies.

Charlton Horethorne : An additional storage tank of 7,500 gallons capacity has been constructed.

Charlton Musgrove : An additional storage tank of 10,000 gallons capacity has been constructed at Stoney Stoke, where shortages have been experienced in the past year or two.

A short length of new main has been laid to serve Charlton House, a farm and a cottage.

Shortages have been experienced at Ansford, High Road, Galhampton and Woolston (Castle Cary supply), and Charlton Musgrove.

Work on the experimental borehole at Shepton Montague has proceeded, and at the end of the year a depth of 230 feet had been reached without revealing a satisfactory supply of water. It is intended to continue boring until the lias formation has been reached.

No decision on post War proposals can be made until this operation has been concluded.

9.—Drainage and Sewerage.

Short sewer extensions have been constructed at Holton and Templecombe.

Defective sewers have been re-laid at North Street and Whitehall, Wincanton.

2. Post War Proposals.

The following schemes are included in the first priority group :—

Wincanton Sewage Works.

Milborne Port (Infiltration).

Milborne Port Improvement of Works.

Templecombe Sewerage Scheme.

Henstridge Sewage Works, Second Instalment.

Holton Sewage Works.

North Cheriton Sewerage Scheme.

Penselwood Sewage Works Improvement.

Pitcombe Lisbury Extension (when necessary).

Bayford Connection to Wincanton Sewers.

Sparkford Sewage Works Improvements.

The estimated cost of these Schemes is £70,000.

Work on the Wincanton Sewage Works has commenced.

Camping Sites.

No Camping Sites in this District have been registered.

Generally the only cases of Camping which occurred were cases of 2 or 3 days duration.

No special difficulties in connection with Camping are anticipated.

10.—Housing.

New Houses.

1. Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of year ... 630

2. Houses erected by	Type	No.	Av. cost pr. House	Av. rent Incl. or Excl. of Rates.	If subsidised : <i>Subsidy per yr.</i>		Period of Subsidy
					L.A.	Govt.	
(a) Local Authority	Swedish pre-fab.	8		10/- p.w. Exc. of Rates	£1 10 0	£25 0 0	60 yrs.
(b) Private Enterprise	3 Bedroom Parlour	5	£1200				
3. Houses in course of erection by	Flats	20		9/- Excl. of R.	£5 10 0	£16 10 0	60 yrs.
	3 B. non-Parl	20		12/9 "			
	Swedish pre-fab.	16		10/- "	£1 10 0	£25 10 0	60 yrs.
(a) Local Authority	Parlour 3 B.	28		13/6 "			
(b) Private Enterprise	Non-parlour (3 bedrooms)	2	£1200				
	Parlour (3 bedrooms)	2	£1200				
	Bungalows	2	£1100 and £850				

4. Programme of New Houses to be erected by Local Authority :—

(a) First Year ... 54.

The programme for the first year is being reconsidered. It is the intention of the Council to build all the houses in respect of which Ministerial consent can be obtained.

11.—Ministry of Health Inquiries.

None.

12.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) *Milk Supply.*

(a) Total Number of Registered Dairy Farms	...	...	579
(b) Number of Retailers	...	...	39
(c) Number of Producer-Retailers included in (b)	....	...	36
(d) Number of Licensed pasteurising plants	...	...	1
(e) Number of Heat-Treatment plants not included in (d)	...	...	2

(b) *Meat Supervision.*

SLAUGHTER HOUSES—

Licensed	....	...	2	
Formerly registered—now unused—Application for licence pending	...	...	14	Total 16.

Name of any in use under Ministry of Food :—

South Western Dairies,

Bacon Factory, Bruton, Somerset.

Knackers Yards. Licensed.	3.
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River Pollution.

Nil.

The Report of the Chief Sanitary and Public Health Inspectors are appended.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. E. COULSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
WINCANTON, Somerset,
May, 1947.

T. E. COULSON, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S.E.
Balsam Gate,
WINCANTON, Somerset.

Sir,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1946.

The outstanding feature of the year has been the general effect of the shortages of labour and materials. The resulting controls have caused a great increase of work and have created delays not only in the preparations for, but also in the progress of every task undertaken.

An interesting, but somewhat annoying, feature has been the fact that proposals for necessary remedial work, which owners often resisted before the War, have had to be rejected by the Council because of these shortages. Whether the reason for this is the increase of the amount of money in circulation, or as the charitable would put it, a change of heart, it is at least, a hopeful augury for a big step forward in the future.

Changes in both technical and office staff have imposed on me a severe burden, for which I can see no great relief in 1947, although I hope 1948 will bring about a change for the better.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The water supplies of the area have generally remained satisfactory in (a) quality and (b) quantity.

Purity of Supply.

Public Supplies.

46 Samples of the Public Supplies have been analysed with the following results :—

B.Coli absent	...	36	
30—100 per litre	...	6	
100—1,000 „	....	3	(Sparkford and Milborne Port)
1,000—10,000	...	1	(Templecombe)

Careful inspections of the sources at Sparkford and Milborne Port showed no likelihood of dangerous pollution.

It seemed probable that seepage into the borehole was the cause of the bad result at Templecombe. The Council have decided to Chlorinate this supply.

No chemical analyses have been made.

Private Supplies.

Samples were taken of the water from two springs, proposed to be used to augment a farm supply. Both of these proved satisfactory.

Sufficiency of Supply.

The wet season has reduced the shortages to some degree, although complaints were renewed in respect of areas in the Parishes of Ansford (Castle Cary supply) and Charlton Musgrove, and at Galhampton, Woolston, and Camel Hill.

As a temporary measure, the Council decided to provide at Charlton Musgrove, two additional reservoirs, a 10,000 gallon tank near the reservoir, and a 10,000 gallon tank at Stoney Stoke, and at Charlton Horethorne, a 7,500 tank near the reservoir.

An offer was made to contribute to the cost of private storage tanks at Queen Camel to serve four dwellings at Camel Hill.

In February the Council received the report of Herbert Lapworth Partners on the water resources in the Rural District. The general effect of this Report may be summarized as follows :—

The existing twelve sources of supply give a Dry Weather (D.W.) yield of 902,740 gallons per day (g.p.d.)

The six principal sources at Bruton, Castle Cary, Penselwood, and Templecombe give a D.W. yield of 775,340 g.p.d.

If these are to be retained, the amount needed to obtain the estimated amount required (1,245,000 g.p.d.) is 469,660 (say half a million) g.p.d.

This deficiency would be reduced to 350,000 g.p.d. if 150,000 g.p.d. from additional Penselwood springs were taken.

The report suggested two possible additional sources.

One was the impounding of water in the Stourton Valley, just outside your district, by enlarging one of the lakes at a cost which was estimated to amount to 8d. per 1,000 gallons.

The other was the sinking of two experimental boreholes in the neighbourhood of Shepton Montague where there was thought to be a reasonable chance of obtaining the half million gallons required.

The Council decided to accept the latter suggestion and entered into a contract with the Clyde Drilling Company who commenced work in October. At the end of the year a depth of 230 feet had been reached, so far without satisfactory result.

Plumbo-solvency.

The public water supplies liable to have plumbo-solvent action are those at South Brewham, Charlton Musgrove and, to a lesser degree, Penselwood.

At Charlton Musgrove, the water is passed over Magnesite.

The Penselwood water includes one hard water, which, when mixed with the remainder, reduces the acidity. A liming plant is available for use when necessary.

No treatment is undertaken at Brewham where it is believed no lead pipes are in use.

In all three districts, the use of lead pipes is prohibited.

Chlorination : Chlorination of the Penselwood (including Wincanton) and of the Castle Cary supplies, has been maintained throughout the year.

Population Supplied: The following table gives the number of houses, and estimated population, supplied with water from public mains, public standpipes, and from private supplies in pipes, set out parish by parish:—

POPULATION SERVED BY PIPED WATER SUPPLIES.

Parish.	Pop. 1931 Census :	Tot. No. Houses :	Est. Pop. 1946.	Public Sup. piped to Houses : Est. Pop. '46.	Pub. Sup. piped to standpipe Houses : Est. Pop. '46.	Private Supply piped to Houses : Est. Pop. '46.
ALFORD	102	25	85	25	—	—
ANSFORD	305	677	2342	656	—	—
CASTLE CARY	1664					
BRATTON	98	33	132	28	—	3
BRUHAM	378	122	380	110	4	4
BRUTON	1553	476	1648	463	—	5
CASTLE CARY						
(See Ansford)						
C. HORETHORNE	463	145	490	85	16	36
C. MUSGROVE	377	113	370	101	—	9
COMPTON PAUNCEFOOT	208	63	200	—	—	56
CORTON DENHAM	228	68	220	—	—	56
CUCKLINGTON	211	66	211	58	—	4
HENSTRIDGE	1040	316	1080	288	12	1
HOLTON	233	68	230	53	—	5
HORSINGTON	611	179	620	136	—	35
LOVINGTON	189	57	180	57	—	—
MAPERTON	125	37	100	24	—	3
MILBORNE PORT	1655	524	1811	502	—	5
NORTH BARROW	94	27	84	27	—	—
NORTH CADBURY	690	200	680	100	—	—
NORTH CHERITON	178	56	180	53	—	—
PENSELWOOD	285	85	289	65	—	—
PITCOMBE	457	110	454	90	—	16
QUEEN CAMEL	472	157	500	140	—	3
SHEPTON MONTAGUE	231	60	210	42	—	9
SOUTH BARROW	86	30	80	30	—	—
SOUTH CADBURY	294	88	280	3	—	73
SPARKFORD	380	115	380	106	—	6
STOKE TRISTER	291	99	300	92	—	3
TEMPLECOMBE	871	277	942	266	5	3
WINCANTON	2047	610	2150	609	—	—
YARLINGTON	149	47	160	38	—	—
TOTAL	15,965	4,930	16,788	4,247	37	440
					117	1,474

SEWERAGE.

The works at Bruton, Castle Cary, Henstridge, Milborne Port and Sparkford have functioned satisfactorily. At Sparkford the high level of the water in the stream prevented adequate examination of the effluent, and infiltration was excessive at times.

At Milborne Port too, infiltration remains one of the greatest problems. There has been one complaint of excessive smell at Goat Hill, immediately below the Works, alleged to be due to river pollution. It is my opinion, however, that this smell arises from the Works, and occurs in certain climatic conditions, as the result of unusual wind currents due to the land formations.

During the year, repairs to sewers have been effected in the following parishes:—

Bruton, Milborne Port, North Cheriton, South Barrow, Templecombe and Wincanton.

The Council have decided to provide and maintain washing facilities at all sewage works. This will entail the provision of some additional buildings.

Castle Cary. Trade Waste.

The longstanding connection of the trade effluent from the Gas Works to an old surface water drain in Station Road has resulted in nuisances near road gullies in Torbay and in drain blockages.

I have taken part in discussions with Representatives of the County Council and of the company, when general agreement was reached to the principle of connecting this waste to the Public Sewer.

I have had further discussions with the technical advisors of the Company and these have reached a stage when a successful conclusion can be anticipated. It is unfortunate, therefore, that there is a temporary hold-up in my department due to staffing difficulties.

Holton.

The short sewer extension referred to in my last Report has been completed. Protests have been received from the Owner and Occupier of the field into which the sewer discharges.

Negotiations with the Agents have commenced but little progress has been made. The decision of the Council referred to under Templecombe has complicated matters.

Milborne Port.

During the year, I discovered that cattle were being allowed to stray on to the irrigation area at night. Fortunately the trespass was of comparatively short duration and the land soon recovered.

The old overland outfall sewer has been repaired, although its renewal must be anticipated soon.

Buttresses have been built in order to support the filter walls which were collapsing, although the latter had only been constructed about ten years.

North Cheriton.

After a particularly heavy rain, the main sewer burst, and sewage escaped on to the highway. Repairs were effected but it was not considered necessary to enlarge the sewer as it is proposed to lay a new soil sewer as soon as practicable.

Shepton Montague.

The drainage of this hamlet finds its way to a ditch or stream, which has become choked so as to retard the flow.

A special Sub-Committee met on the Site, and the Council have accepted their recommendations which were to undertake the cleansing of the ditch, despite the fact that sewage and roof drainage form such a small proportion of the flow, and to permit all connections thereto, in anticipation of a village sewerage scheme.

Templecombe.

The sewer extension mentioned in my last report has been completed.

This year there has been a repetition of a somewhat mysterious nuisance in a ditch in Temple Lane, caused by a discharge therein of crude sewage from a public sewer which has no known connection to this ditch. The trouble, which was of short duration, was cured by rodding the sewer. It was decided not to search for the fault as the proposals for the new sewerage system will provide the remedy.

Mr. Allen, the Engineer preparing the Sewerage Scheme, interviewed the Public Health Committee in order to suggest that provision be made at the Works for the drainage of Horsington (including South Cheriton), North Cheriton and Holton. This suggestion was approved by the Committee and the Council, although no details were given of the cost involved, nor consideration given to its effect on the general programme. In my opinion this proposal is impracticable.

Wincanton.

A contract for the new sewerage scheme has been let to Messrs. Geo. Pollard & Co., Ltd., Taunton, and work has just started.

The sewer repair in North Street, referred to in my last Report, has been completed.

Repeated blockages in a sewer serving three houses at Whitehall led to an investigation of the main sewer which was found to be badly choked, broken in many places, and laid to uneven and, in some places, back falls.

The sewer was cleared, some sections relaid, and four inspection chambers constructed at a cost likely to exceed £500. During the work, the unsuspected cause of frequent surcharges and of considerable grit deposits was discovered and cured, and this in itself, justified the expenditure.

The increasing annual cost of sewer repairs must be the cause of some concern. It seems probable that the excessive heavy traffic during the War has caused damage to the old sewers, and further heavy expenditure must be anticipated.

HOUSING.

Bad housing conditions remained the worst feature of the year. Not only are new houses slow in construction, but also the shortages of materials makes it impossible to improve many existing houses, which continue to deteriorate.

Overcrowding.

Comparatively few cases of statutory overcrowding have been reported, but those that exist reveal disheartening conditions. There are, however, many cases of unsatisfactory housing. In Milborne Port for instance, one half of the applicants for Council Houses are without a home of their own.

Progress : Council Houses.

The four permanent houses at Sparkford, started in February, are not yet complete. This is extremely disappointing and it seems difficult to blame this entirely to "shortages," as the "super priority" arrangement of the Ministry did function when it was operated.

24 Swedish Timber Houses have been started and while only eight have been completed at Henstridge, Shepton Montague and South Cadbury, the remainder at Bruham, Charlton Horethorne, Cucklington, Horsington and North Cadbury, and Shepton Montague are nearing completion.

Contracts for 64 traditional type houses have been let.

These are sited as follows :—

Wincanton	...	28
Milborne Port	...	20
Templecombe	...	16

Sites have been acquired in Bruton, Castle Cary and Henstridge.

Conversions, etc.

I have dealt with repairs to requisitioned houses and with the conversion of requisitioned buildings to housing accommodation.

The conversion of "The Rosary," Wincanton, into two flats was effected, providing in one flat a kitchen, living-room and two bedrooms, and in the other, a kitchen, living-room and three bedrooms. These flats were let to families of three and one respectively.

After much delaying preparatory work, the Council were permitted to take over, and convert into eight dwellings, the four disused concrete-built Army huts at Millbrook, Castle Cary. As the cost had to be kept below a £1,600 "ceiling," the standard of the work was lower than I should have wished it to be, but despite this, these habitations, each of which contains a small kitchen, a living-room and two bedrooms, and an internal water closet, are likely to prove useful housing accommodation for a number of years. The work was substantially completed by the end of the year, and four were occupied in mid-December.

The old Laundry Building at Brook Street, Milborne Port, was converted into a flat with kitchen, living-room, and two bedrooms.

The Temperance Hotel at Wincanton, previously used as the Food Control Office, was converted into three separate apartments—two of them sharing a water closet and bathroom.

A large refreshment room was adapted for use as a Fuel Office, thus releasing a condemned house in South Street, which is intended to be temporarily repaired by the owners, the County Council, for the housing of employees.

Essential repairs were completed to nine requisitioned houses.

I have also prepared specifications for the conversion of the Laundry, Lattiford, into a dwelling, and the scheme is now before the Ministry.

Templecombe House.

I have continued investigations, briefly referred to in my last Report, into the possibility of converting this building into flats. The estimate showed that the project would not be an economic proposition, and the certainty of retaining tenants could not be assured. After consultation with the Ministry it was decided to abandon the project.

The control of these operations have given me an insight and experience of post-War restrictions which seem scarcely an adequate recompense for the extra amount of work involved. My recompense, however, lies in the fact that the Council's Architect was able to devote all his resources to new housing.

The number of premises under hire or requisition for housing purposes at the beginning of the year was 47 and, at the end of the year, 54.

Selection of Tenants.

The selection of tenants for the few houses available has been very difficult, and as a result the Council have adopted a 'points' system based on health considerations, the condition of, or the lack of, accommodation, the size of family, war loss or service and personal considerations. The points allocated are not to be divulged to the public, and the names of the applicants will be before the Selection Committee.

No points system can be perfect, but it must hold advantages over the methods previously adopted when anomalies arose. As an instance of these, I have mentioned the letting of one "Rosary" flat to one person. In addition, one of the new parlour-type three-bedroomed houses at Sparkford has been allocated to a man and wife without children adequately housed, whilst one of the applicants was an ex-Service man, with a wife and five children, all sleeping in *one room*, and sharing with five other persons, a five roomed house which was unfit and bare of amenity.

HOUSING SURVEY.

Progress in the Housing Survey has been slow owing to shortages of both technical and clerical staff, and to more urgent work.

In order to make a provision for a great advance in housing standards, the inspections continue to cover much detail. While this reduces the number of inspections, it ensures that the work will not be wasted in the future whether or not there is a change of ownership. The shortages in materials which must be expected to continue for some years, will delay the start of the slum clearance programme, so that the early completion of the survey is no longer important.

The results to date, are given in the table below. A number of houses inspected have not yet been categorised and so are excluded :—

	Total on Jan. 1st.	Bruton.	Milborne Port.	North Cadbury.	North Barrow.	South Barrow.	Total on 31st Dec.
Estimated No. of Houses £16 R.V. and under ..	897	280	61	189	25	23	1474
Dealt with in pr-War Programme ...	44	6	—	12	—	—	62
Total No. to be inspected ...	853	274	61	177	25	23	1413
No. fully inspected ...	294	94	57	66	13	16	540
Adequate records available...	51	37	—	—	—	—	88
Found fit	15	—	1	—	—	—	16
Scheduled under—							
Housing Act 1936, Section 9. Minor defects	49	10	4	6	2	—	71
Serious defects ...	17	2	2	1	—	1	23
Housing (R.W.) Acts ...	5	—	—	1	—	—	6
Low standard (Deferment)...	64	13	14	9	2	2	104
Housing Act, 1936, Section 11. Housing (R.W.) Acts	36	7	—	20	4	8	75
Section 11/12 (Unfit) ...	61	19	21	18	1	3	123
Section 25 (Clearance) ...	98	80	15	11	4	2	210
Replacement need ...	162	90	16	33	4	4	409
Suitable for acquisition ...	—	1	20	1	—	3	25

Private Enterprise.

The erection of 13 houses has been started, and of these 5 have been completed. Of the remaining 8, 7 are almost complete.

STATUTORY ACTION.

No statutory action has been taken.

Informal action has resulted in repairs being executed to 41 houses, so as to make good serious defects and abate nuisances and in seven cases to bring them up to the standard of the Housing Act.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

One house which was found to be infested with fleas was disinfested after two treatments.

INSPECTIONS.

In all branches of work—4,603 inspections have been made.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

77 nuisances in connection with sewers, drains, conveniences and buildings, etc. have been abated.

Repairs have been carried out at 47 houses.

Five earth closets have been converted to water closets and one vault to an earth closet.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

During the past year inspections have been made in factories in all cases where offences have been suspected.

There have been seventy two inspections in all.

Ten defects have been found of which six have been remedied.

Of the four outstanding, three concerned insufficient or unsuitable sanitary accommodation, and one 'want of lime washing.'

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

The usual disinfection of premises has been carried out.

Bedding, etc. has been disinfected at the Isolation Hospital, Wincanton.

HOUSE REFUSE.

House refuse collections are made weekly in Bruton, and Wincanton, fortnightly in Anford and Castle Cary, and monthly in Henstridge, Milborne Port, Queen Camel and Templecombe. The methods of collection and of disposal remain unsatisfactory.

A limited quantity of hard core is collected by the salvage van in Parishes which house refuse is not collected provided salvage is also put out.

A commencement was made with the detail of the comprehensive house refuse scheme, but with the departure of Mr. Chaffe, much of the value of this work was lost.

A decision to purchase two refuse collection vehicles was made, and one has been ordered.

The ordering of the other has been held up pending a final consideration of manoeuvrability in narrow streets.

SALVAGE.

The results for this year, although showing only a slight drop, are not encouraging. The loss on working has been reduced as the driver engaged in 1945 has remained in the service for the whole of the year.

The sales were as follows, the figures for 1945 being given in brackets :—

		Tons	£
Paper	....	78.70 (79.05)	523.40 (531.10)
Ferrous Metals	...	31.56 (126.80)	44.05 (139.15)
Non-ferrous Metals	...	.55 (—)	12.65 (—)
Textiles	... ..	6.85 (7.10)	54.45 (70.40)
Bottles	... ..	.06 (4.65)	1.00 (6.10)
Bones	... ..	6.33 (8.30)	34.45 (42.40)
Total		12.405 (225.90)	670.00 (789.15)

In the County Tables prepared by the Hon. District Adviser the Council held the following positions :—

Paper—fourth, Textiles—seventh, Bones—third, Sales Value—sixth.

MILK SUPPLIES.

Owing to the deficiencies in the supplies of Labour and Material, action has been limited to informal action.

Structural improvements have been effected at seventeen farms.

Following the service of a statutory notice, one “unsatisfactory” Retailer attended a Public Health Committee Meeting, when his offer to recondition his premises was accepted.

After some delay, due to shortages of materials and to bad weather, the necessary work was completed.

Designated Milks.

During the year, the County Council appointed a full time Sampling Officer, and I relinquished these duties on June 30th.

In the first half of the year, the results were :—

		Samples taken.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
T.T.	...	165	146	19
ACC.	...	232	200	32

The results of other samples taken were :—

Tubercle Bacilli—

No. of Samples	...	...	47
No. of Negative results	....	..	42
No. of inconclusive results		...	3
No. containing T.B.	...	...	2

Pasteurised Milk—

No. of samples	...	...	8
Satisfactory	...	...	8

Heat Treated (Other than Pasteurised)—

No. taken	...	...	8
Satisfactory	...	...	6
Unsatisfactory	....	...	2

INSPECTION OF FOOD.

All pigs slaughtered at South Western Dairies' Bacon Factory at Bruton, have been inspected, with the following results :—

No. of Pigs slaughtered	...	...	6,686
Condemnations :			
Tuberculosis : Carcases	...	...	11
Heads	...	...	602
Plucks and Part Plucks		...	242
Part Carcases F/Q		...	21
„ H/Q		...	8
Other Diseases : Plucks and Part Plucks		...	44
Livers	...	...	36

T.B. was found in 9.2 % of all animals.

2½ cwts. of other meat was seized at Butchers' shops, and condemned.

At Buffer Depots and Retail Shops, 1 ton 9¾ cwts. of various foods have been condemned.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Consideration was given to the enforcement of the provisions of this Act so far as they relate to Food Premises. It was decided that owing to shortages, formal action must be deferred, except in the case of shops selling ice-cream. These it was decided must be surveyed and the necessary action taken.

Defects at two food shops have been remedied.

RODENT CONTROL.

Justification of the Council's policy in making no charge for rodent destruction is once again proved by the results of the year's working, which are given in the following table:

No. infestations treated.		Est'd. killed.	Bodies recovered.	No. infestations cleared.	Baits used.	Poisons used.
Reservoir	7	348	22	1	Sausage Rusk,	Zinc
Major	66	5427	704	40	and Bread	Phosphid
Minor	115	1953	143	*	Mash.	and Arsenic.

* An accurate figure for minor infestations cleared is not available as it was found impracticable to revisit and test-bait all minor infestations.

It has been found impossible to deal successfully with an infestation in and near the banks of the River Brue at Bruton, as it has been found impracticable to get the banks and stream-bed cleaned.

Careful attention has been given to Sewers and Refuse Dumps. Infestations in sewers at Castle Cary and Milborne Port have been satisfactorily dealt with.

PLANS.

147 Plans were presented.

Byelaws.

120 were approved, 4 disapproved, 5 were withdrawn and 8 are in abeyance.

Interim Development Order.

112 were approved, 5 rejected, 5 withdrawn, and 6 remain in abeyance.

(Appeal).

There was one appeal against the Council's decision, but after holding a public enquiry, the Ministry upheld the Council's decision.

At the beginning of the year, the Council was the Planning Authority for the Rural District, but after discussions with the County Council and the Ministry, the Council reluctantly agreed to unite with the Yeovil Borough and Rural District Councils to form the Yeovil District Planning Authority, although it remains the Interim Development Authority. There has been full co-operation with the Planning Authority.

LICENSING OF BUILDING WORK.

The work involved in dealing with licenses for building work has been very great. There has, naturally, been some dissatisfaction over these restrictions, but despite the imposition of a weekly licensing ceiling, no unemployment has resulted. In fact, more work has been licensed than has been executed.

As a result of over-licensing in the Yeovil Zone, of work involving the erection of new houses, the power to license such work was withdrawn. This decision seemed unfair as the Council were inside the ratio accepted by the Minister of Health.

The action taken is set out in the following table :—

Applications received and brought forward	...	...	...	934
No. of Licences issued for work involving—New Houses	...	...	...	3
	Repairs, etc. (Housing)	...	...	479
	Repairs, etc. (Other than Housing)	...	...	159
No. sent to Ministry	...	(Over £100)	...	116
No.	...	Refused	...	78
		Withdrawn	...	73
		Revoked	...	1
		Lapsed	...	10
		Carried Forward	...	51

The licences issued covered the work involved in the provision of sixteen additional units of housing accommodation, of which five have been completed.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R. G. GRAY.

SOUTH BANK,
CASTLE CARY,

Dec. 31st, 1946.

To T. E. COULSON, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

Wincanton.

Sir,

I beg to submit my Report for the year ended the 31st of December, 1946, as follows :—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The Bakehouses have been inspected periodically, and they are generally in very fair condition, and have been recently limewashed. I have given verbal notices, where necessary, for the flour lofts to be limewashed. In one instance a new floor is required in a bakehouse, and a new floor and roof to a flour loft. The sanitary arrangements at the South Brewham Bakehouse are very unsatisfactory, but they cannot be properly remedied, until the proposed public sewer is available. When times are more normal, the washing facilities at some of the bakehouses could be improved by hot water taps being placed over glazed sinks, and not the hot water drawn off into buckets from the Hot water apparatus as at present. In places where the Bakers experienced a difficulty in obtaining towels for their employees I have issued priority certificates. In the matter of Means of Escape in case of Fire at the three Saw Mills at Ansford, Bruton and Sparkford, I experienced no difficulty, in recommending that Certificates should be issued to the Proprietors. In the matter of two Tailoring Establishments at Castle Cary, one Occupier has promised to repair the workroom floor and provide a new step at the entrance to replace the dangerous step there at present. The other Occupier has promised to renovate the small workroom on the first floor, and to provide a thermometer for each workroom.

INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

Cases of Infestation by rats on private premises, factories and shops have been successfully dealt with by the Council's Rodent Officer. In cases of farm infestation, these have been referred to the Somerset Agricultural War Executive Committee, for their Pest Officer to deal with.

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS, 1926—42.

I have visited the houses, and collected the Certificates from the Owners of reconstructed houses situate in the Parishes of Alford, Ansford, Bratton Seymour, Brewham, Bruton, Castle Cary, Charlton Horethorne, Corton Denham, Charlton Musgrove, Cucklington, Horsington, Henstridge, Lovington, Maperton, Milborne Port, North Cadbury, Penselwood, Pitcombe, Sparkford, South Barrow, South Cadbury, Sutton Montis, Stoke Trister, Wincanton and Yarlinton, and have forwarded the Certificates to the Clerk to the R.D.C. The Conditions under which the Grants were made are being generally observed. In five cases only the rents being charged exceeded the amounts fixed by the County Council. These cases have been referred to the County Council to deal with. I have forwarded to the Chief Sanitary Inspector a list of defects detected at the houses and no doubt he will have the defects remedied in due course. It is very gratifying to know that so many owners of unfit houses availed themselves of the benefits of these Acts, when

they were in force, and it seems a pity that more did not do so. The County Medical Officer of Health in his Report for the year 1945 shows that Grants were approved in this district, up to the 30th of September, 1945, on 285 houses and grants authorised to the extent of £27,059. This is considerably the highest in the County.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

I have visited the Food Shops in the district and cases of unfit foods detected were referred to the Salvage Officer to deal with. I have prepared a list of the defects found on the premises. This list has been handed to the Chief Sanitary Inspector to deal with. I have also visited all the Hotels, Inns, Clubs, and Restaurants, and prepared a list of defects found. This list has also been handed to the Chief Sanitary Inspector to deal with in due course. One of the most serious defects, both at the Shops, and the Hotels, etc., etc., is the lack of adequate washing facilities.

WATER SUPPLIES.

I received serious complaints of the intermittent, and low pressure of the public water supply at some houses in the vicinity of Ansford Hill, Parish of Ansford. The Council's Water Engineer has given the matter his attention, with the result that the supply has temporarily improved, but it is feared that when the dry weather comes, and when the Milk Factory, The Railway Station, and the farms on the lower level are drawing large quantities of water, these houses will again be short of water. The permanent remedy would appear to be for these houses on the higher level to be supplied with water from above the Pressure Reducing Chamber in Ansford Hill and not from below the Chamber as at present. It is very pleasing to know that each town and each village in the district has a piped water supply. Of course, there are a few isolated farms and cottages in outlying situations that are relying on wells and small springs. This is however inevitable.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

I have been in communication with the Bruton and Castle Cary Parish Councils respecting some defects at the Public Sanitary Conveniences, and the defects are being remedied.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Certificates have been granted exempting two Shops (one at Queen Camel and the other at Sparkford) from the provision of sanitary conveniences as accommodation is available on adjoining premises.

FINALE.

As this is the last opportunity I shall have the honour of presenting a Report to you, may I take the occasion to express my thanks, Sir, to you for the valued assistance you have always been prepared to render to me in any case of difficulty.

I am, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

E. J. HAINE PADFIELD.

